

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 /060 W
-----040429 151610Z /43

R 151224Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8304
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13519

E.O. 21652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EG
SUBJ: RAMADHAN AND SADAT'S "VACATION"

1. FASTING MONTH OF RAMDHAN BEGAN TODAY. IN AN UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT, PRESS REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT YESTERDAY ISSUED A REPUBLICAN DEGREE DELEGATING ALL POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO VP MUBARAK BECAUSE SADAT IS TAKING A "VACATION" OF UNDETERMINED LENGTH BEGINNING TODAY. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS KIND OF THIN HAS NEVER BEFORE TAKEN PLACE WHILE PRESIDENT HAS REMAINED IN COUNTRY. WHENEVER SADAT LEAVES THE COUNTRY, OF COURSE, HIS PRESIDENTIAL POWERS ARE FORMALLY DELEGATED TO THE VP DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE. ALLUDING TO PRESIDENT'S CUSTOM OF PRAYING AND MEDITATING DURING RAMADHAN, PRESS REPORTS HE WILL MAKE EVALUATION OF A NUMBER OF EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ISSUES WHILE ON LEAVE.

2. WHEN TAKING CODELS DERWINSKI AND SIKES TO MEET WITH SADAT YESTERDAY IN ALEXANDRIA, I DID NOT YET KNOW OF
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DECREE. NOR DID THE PRESIDENT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I DID ASK HIM AFTERWARDS WHERE HE EXPECTED TO SPEND RAMADHAN. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN ALEXANDRIA UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST, AFTER WHICH HE WILL GO TO HIS VILLAGE OF MIT ABUL KOM FOR THE REMAINDER OF RAMADHAN (I.E., APPROXIMATELY THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER). PRESS REPORTS THAT ON FIRST DAY OF

BAIRAM, I.E., ABOUT SEPTEMBER 14, HE WILL VISIT SUEZ
CANAL TUNNEL PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY.

3. COMMENT: SADAT'S ACTION IN "TAKING LEAVE" HAS
CAUSED SOME RAISED EYEBROWS. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT
SADAT IS VERY TIRED, FATIGUED AND DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT
AREA AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS. HE INVARIABLY FASTS
METICULOUSLY DURING RAMADHAN AND FEELS THE STRAIN OF
PROLONGED FASTING. WHEN CODELS MET WITH HIM YESTERDAY,
I NOTED HE WAS TENSE, LOOKED FATIGUED AND PERSPIRED PRO-
FUSELY. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, HE WANTS TO GET AWAY FROM
EVERYDAY BUSINESS FOR A TIME AND THINK THROUGH SOME OF
HIS CURRENT PROBLEMS. HOW THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL WORK
OUT IN PRACTICE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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